



**US Army Corps  
of Engineers**

Vicksburg District  
4155 Clay Street  
Vicksburg, MS 39183-3435



# Public Notice

APPLICATION NO.:	SAJ-200310770
EVALUATOR:	Ms. Susan A. Jarvis
PHONE NO.:	(601) 631-5146
FAX NO.:	(601) 631-5459
E-MAIL:	regulatory@mvk02.usace.army.mil
DATE:	November 21, 2003
EXPIRATION DATE:	December 12, 2003

Interested parties are hereby notified that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Vicksburg District, and the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality, Office of Environmental Services are considering an application for a Department of the Army permit and State water quality certification for the work described herein. A water quality certification is required in accordance with statutory authority contained in the LRS 30:2074 A(3) and provisions of the Clean Water Act. Comments should be forwarded to the Vicksburg District, ATTN: CEMVK-OD-F, at the above address and the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality, Office of Environmental Services, Post Office Box 4313, Baton Rouge, LA 70821-4313.

The Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality has a copy of the application on file in their office in Baton Rouge and may be inspected at any time between 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. weekdays. Copies may be obtained from the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality upon payment of cost of printing. The Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality will make a final decision on the water quality certification pertaining to this application within 30 days after expiration of this notice.

Law Requiring a Permit: Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. 1344), which applies to discharges of dredged or fill material into waters of the United States.

Name of Applicant:

Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development  
Post Office Box 94245  
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70804-9245

Location of Work: Sections 4, 5, and 9, T5N-R1W, and sections 8, 17, 20, 29, and 32, T6N-R1W, latitude 31° 27' 34.08"

longitude 92° 27'34.08", within the Little River and Lower Red-Lake Iatt drainage basins, Grant and Rapides Parishes, Louisiana.

Description of Work: (See enclosed map and drawings.)

The following descriptions of the proposed project and associated impacts are based upon information provided by the applicant.

The applicant is applying for a Department of the Army permit to mechanically clear and fill 1.75 acres of wetlands and 1.70 acres of other waters of the United States associated with the construction and maintenance of the widening and overlaying of U.S. Highway 167.

The purpose of this work is to widen and upgrade the existing U.S. Highway 167 roadway to provide a four lane north-south link between Alexandria and the Arkansas state line to improve vehicular mobility and to improve accessibility along the U.S. Highway 167 corridor by increasing the safety and level of service of the highway.

The project would begin at the U.S. Highway 167 intersection with Louisiana Highway 3225, where the existing four-lane ends on the U.S. Highway 167, and extends in a northerly direction, ending approximately 1.3 miles south of the junction with Louisiana Highway 8 in Bentley, Louisiana. At the project start, the existing roadway would remain in place for southbound traffic and two new lanes of asphaltic concrete, separated from the existing roadway by a 90-foot-wide depressed median, would be constructed to the east of the current alignment for northbound traffic. Each lane would be 12 feet wide. Roadbed dimensions would average 40 feet top width and 95 feet bottom width. The new highway would require an average cleared right-of-way of 200 feet. The maximum right-of-way width, at the U.S. Highway 167 intersection with Louisiana Highway 3225 would be approximately 275 feet. This proposed project would require approximately 118,300 cubic yards of general excavation and 140,800 cubic yards of embankment. The project would be approximately 6.2 miles in length.

The proposed project calls for the existing U.S. Highway 167 from the intersection with Louisiana Highway 3225 in Rapides Parish to just south of Louisiana Highway 8 in Bentley, Grant Parish to be four-laned and upgraded to meet current transportation standards. This proposed project is the result of legislation created in 1989 known as the Transportation Infrastructure Model for Economic Development (TIMED) which designated certain highways and transportation facilities for improvement. One objective of the TIMED program is to ensure that a four-lane highway connects most major urban areas of the state. The four-laning of the U.S.

Highway 167 is an important element in linking central Louisiana with areas of north Louisiana to the Arkansas state line.

A total of 19 sites were delineated and 10 sites were identified as wetlands which would be impacted by the project. Sites 1 through 4 covered an area located in the vicinity of Station No. (STA.) 119+00 to 158+50 and would impact approximately 0.651 acre of wetlands. Site 6, located in the vicinity of STA. 181+00 to 181+50, would impact approximately 0.036 acre of wetlands. Site 9 covered an area located in the vicinity of STA. 222+00 through 226+00 and would impact approximately 0.22 acre of wetlands. Sites 13 through 16 covered an area located in the vicinity of STA. 305+00 to 381+50 and would impact approximately 0.712 acre of wetlands. Site 19 was located in the vicinity of STA. 429+00 to 431+00 and would impact approximately 0.07 acre of wetlands.

The dominant species of vegetation at the 10 delineated wetland sites include: Allium bivalve, Andropogon virginicus, Arundinaria gigantea, Axonopus affinis, Callicarpa Americana, Carex sp., Carya sp., Cyperus strigosus, Ilex deciduas, Ilex vomitoria, Juncus acuminatus, Ligustrum sinense, Liquidambar styraciflua, Lonicera japonica, Lygidium japonicum, Panicum scoparium, Panicum sp., Persea barbonia, Pinus echinata, Prunus serotina, Quercus falcate, Quercus nigra, Quercus pagoda, Rubus sp., Rumex crispus, Salix nigra, Sambucus canadensis, Sapium sebiferum, Smilax sp., Ulmus alata, and Vaccinium elliotii.

A total of approximately 1.75 acres of jurisdictional wetlands would be impacted by the construction of the project including the cleared right-of-way. The applicant proposes to begin mitigation for the wetlands being impacted by construction activities for this project by minimizing impacts in accordance with their standard specifications. Unavoidably lost wetland functions and values would be appropriately mitigated.

A total of 1.70 acres of other waters of the United States would be impacted by the construction of the project including the cleared right-of-way. Sixteen of the 19 delineated sites were identified as other waters of the United States. The locations and amounts of impacts for these sites are shown in the Wetland Delineation Site Summary Table.

No bridge construction is required for this project.

The placement of dredged and/or fill material in waters of the United States associated with the mechanized land clearing and levee construction requires a Department of the Army Permit.

Upon reviewing this notice, you should write to this office to

provide your opinion of the impacts this work will have on the natural and human environment and address any mitigation you believe is necessary to offset these impacts. Other comments are welcome, but the above information will further our review of the applicant's plan as proposed. Comments of a general nature are not as helpful as those specific to the impacts of the subject project.

State Water Quality Permit: The State Pollution Control Agency must certify that the described work will comply with the State's water quality standards and effluent limitations before a Corps permit is issued.

Cultural Resources: An initial review indicates that the proposed project would not affect any of the sites in Grant and Rapides Parishes listed in the National Register of Historic Places. Copies of this notice have been sent to the State Historic Preservation Officer, Federally Recognized Tribes, the Corps archaeologists, and other interested parties for comment on potential effects to cultural resources that could result from this activity.

Endangered Species: Our initial finding is that the proposed work would not affect any endangered species or their critical habitat. This proposal is being coordinated with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and any comments regarding endangered species or their critical habitat will be addressed in our evaluation of the described work.

Flood Plain: In accordance with 44 CFR Part 60 (Flood Plain Management and Use), participating communities are required to review all proposed development to determine if a flood plain development permit is required. Flood plain administrators should review the proposed development described in this public notice and apprise this office of any flood plain development permit requirements.


Evaluation Factors: The decision whether or not to issue a permit will be based upon an evaluation of the probable impact of the proposed activity on the public interest. That decision will reflect the national concern for both protection and utilization of important resources. The benefits which may be expected to accrue from the proposal must be balanced against its expected adverse effects. All factors which may be relevant to the proposal will be considered; among these are conservation, economics, aesthetics, general environmental concerns, historic values, fish and wildlife values, flood damage prevention, land use classification, navigation, recreation, water supply, water quality, energy needs, safety, food requirements and, in general, the needs and welfare of the people. Evaluation of the proposed

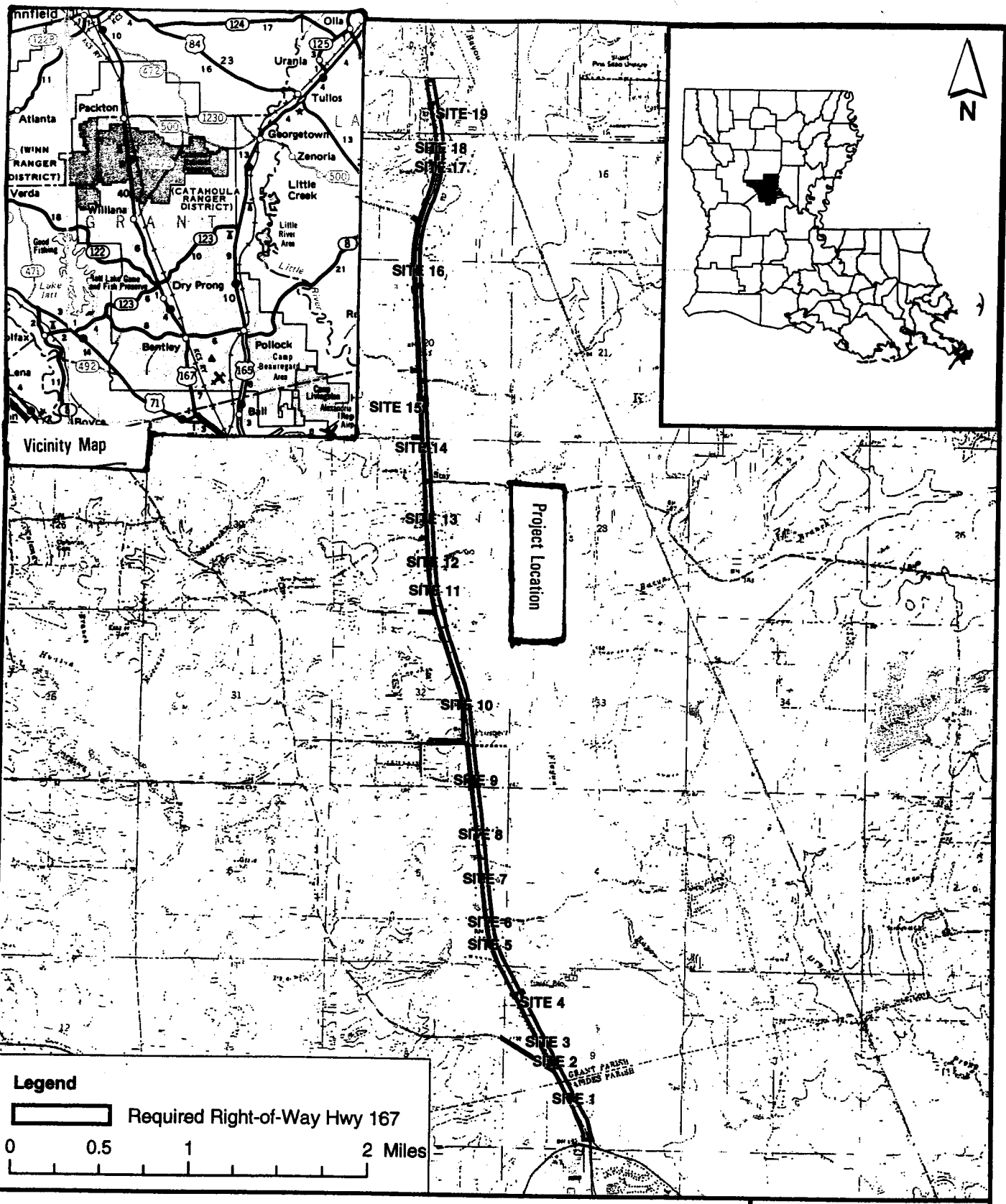
activity will include application of the guidelines published by the Environmental Protection Agency under authority of Section 404(b) of the Clean Water Act.

Public Involvement: The purpose of this notice is to solicit comments from the public; Federal, State, and local agencies and officials; Indian Tribes; and other interested parties. These comments will be used to evaluate the impacts of this project. All comments will be considered and used to help determine whether to issue the permit, deny the permit, or issue the permit with conditions, and to help us determine the amount and type of mitigation necessary. This information will be used in our Environmental Assessment or Impact Statement. Comments are also used to determine the need for a public hearing.

Opportunity for a Public Hearing: Any person may make a written request for a public hearing to consider this permit application. This request must be submitted by the public notice expiration date and must clearly state why a hearing is necessary. Failure of any agency or individual to comment on this notice will be interpreted to mean that there is no objection to the proposed work. Please bring this announcement to the attention of anyone you know who might be interested in this matter.

Notification of Final Permit Actions: Each month, the final permit actions from the preceding month are published on the Vicksburg District Regulatory web page. To access this information, you may follow the link from the Regulatory web page, <http://www.mvk.usace.army.mil/offices/od/odf/main.asp>, or go directly to the Final Permit Actions web page at <http://www.mvk.usace.army.mil/offices/od/odf/PubNotice/MonthlyNotice/pnmain.asp>.

  
W. Harold Lee  
Team Leader  
Evaluation Section



**PROJECT LOCATION MAP**

023-02-0014  
Jct LA 3225- Bentley  
U.S. Highway 167, Rapides & Grant Parish  
USGS 7.5' Series Quadrangles

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LA DOTD

**Jct. LA 3225 – Bentley Wetland Sites**

Site	Station		Wetlands	Other Waters	Non-Wet Drains	Type	Totals
	Start	End					
1	119+00	122+00	0.34	--	--	BLH	0.34
2	133+00	136+25	0.31	0.06	--	BLH/Drain	0.37
3	137+25	137+25	--	--	--	NW	--
4	158+50	158+50	0.001	0.061	--	BLH	.062
5	174+75	175+50	--	0.079	--	Drain	0.079
6	181+00	181+50	0.036	0.075	--	SS	0.111
7	194+50	194+50	--	0.035	--	Drain	0.035
8	208+00	208+00	--	0.042	--	Drain	0.042
9	222+00	226+00	0.22	0.157	--	SS/Drain	0.377
10	247+00	248+00	--	0.078	--	Drain	0.078
11	283+00	284+00	--	0.069	--	Drain	0.069
12	291+75	293+00	--	0.096	--	Drain	0.096
13	305+00	307+00	0.15	0.04	--	HW/Drain	0.19
14	327+00	329+50	0.07	0.03	--	BLH/Drain	0.10
15	336+50	343+00	0.2	0.86	--	BLH/Drain	1.06
16	375+00	381+50	0.292	0.029	--	HW/Drain	0.321
17	399+50	402+00	--	--	0.043	NW	--
18	411+00	411+00	--	0.017	--	Drain	0.017
19	429+00	431+00	0.07	0.031	--	HW/Drain	0.101
<b>Totals</b>			1.749	1.699	0.043		3.448

**Legend:** BLH–Bottomland Hardwood, HW–Herbaceous Wetland, NW–Nonwetland,  
SS–Shrub/Scrub

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LA DOTD